



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held May 13, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“As this Board recognized nearly two years ago, non-native weeds have become established and are causing enormous economic and ecological harm in many areas of Los Angeles County and throughout the western United States. The damaging effects of these ‘noxious’ or ‘invasive’ weeds are well documented. They have invaded and overtaken natural areas, creating ‘monocultures’ that threaten native plant and animal communities, including several endangered species. Moreover, some noxious weeds, such as Arundo, have contributed to flood and fire danger in Los Angeles County watersheds, populated communities and sensitive ecological areas. In addition, monocultures of Yellow Starthistle are poisonous to horses and can interfere with outdoor recreation.

“In response to these concerns, in April 2001, this Board created the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (LACWMA), which has taken significant steps towards halting the spread and reducing the area of infestation of invasive weeds. However, to date only limited funding has been procured to advance the LACWMA’s mission.

“There are two bills currently under consideration in the United States House of Representatives that could provide funding for LACWMA and therefore deserve this Board’s support. S. 144 (Craig), ‘The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003,’ was recently passed unanimously by the Senate and H.R. 119 (Hefley), ‘The Harmful Invasive Weed Control Act,’ is currently under consideration in the House Resources Committee and the House Agricultural Committee.

(Continued on Page 2)

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“These two bills would authorize \$100 million, to be distributed to the States by the Secretary of the Interior, to provide financial assistance to local weed management entities in carrying out control or eradication of harmful, invasive weeds. Passage of these bills could provide LACWMA with a valuable source of funding with which to further its important mission.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record in support of the current legislative efforts underway in the House of Representatives for passage of S. 144 (Craig), "The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003" and H.R. 119 (Hefley), "The Harmful Invasive Weed Control Act," legislation which would authorize \$100 million to be distributed to the states by the Secretary of Interior to provide financial assistance to local weed management entities in carrying out control or eradication of harmful, invasive weeds; and could provide the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area with a valuable source of funding to further its important mission; and
2. Instructed the County's Legislative Advocates, working with affected departments and other interested parties, to advocate the Board's support for S. 144 (Craig) and H.R. 119 (Hefley).

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

County Counsel

Agricultural Commissioner/Director of

Weights and Measures